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## ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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### ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSIONER PAUL NEWMAN SAYS BURNING TRASH IN PHOENIX DOES NOT QUALIFY AS CLEAN ENERGY FOR MOHAVE COUNTY

“Last week was a bad one for solar energy in Arizona,” said AZ Corporation Commissioner Paul Newman. “Over the objections of Commissioner Kennedy and I, the Commission’s Republican majority took a huge step backward in Arizona’s renewable energy rules by voting that burning trash for electricity qualifies as ‘clean energy.’”

Instead of requiring the Mohave County Electric Co-op to add solar or wind to its energy portfolio, the Commission’s decision will enable the utility to burn garbage and get credit for producing renewable energy.

Adding insult to injury, the trash will be burned in Phoenix – with the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst air quality in the nation – and will be used to offset Mohave County Electric Coop’s need for solar and wind. The Commission’s decision means the Mohave County area won’t need commercial scale solar or wind for 12 years – until 2023.

When the Renewable Energy Standard and Tariff (REST) rules were written a few years ago, this issue was hotly debated and burning trash was wisely not included in the definition of ‘clean energy.’

“Why would the sunniest state in the U.S. encourage burning trash over installing solar, and then pretend it’s clean? Chairman Pierce does not have the power to turn garbage into clean energy simply by declaration.

“Arizona voters, who have said again and again that they favor renewable energy, need to know that the current Arizona Corporation Commission doesn’t get it and are not supporting what people want. It’s an embarrassment,” said Newman.

“In a state with a hobbled economy and a need for energy and economic diversification, the Commission is not only acting with indifference toward the renewable energy industry, they are now supporting public policy that creates a disincentive.

The Commission is not paying attention to what really matters. APS has run completely out of rebates, and the solar industry is going to come to a standstill. Citizens need to remind Chairman Pierce and his Republican colleagues that 94% of APS customers polled want more clean energy.”

“Newman has repeatedly said that Arizonans “send \$3 billion out of state every year to buy fuel, while investing only \$150 million/year in clean energy.”

“Governor Brewer declared July 1<sup>st</sup> Don’t Trash Arizona Day. I thank her for that and call on the Governor to extend that message to her Republican colleagues on the Arizona Corporation Commission who have chosen to trash Arizona’s clean energy rules while effectively killing the solar industry in Mohave County for the next decade.”

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